

**ARIZONA OUTDOOR RECREATION COORDINATING COMMISSION
(AORCC)
OF
ARIZONA STATE PARKS (ASP)
Arizona State Parks Office
1300 West Washington St
Phoenix, AZ
October 9, 2008**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Ms. Shulman called the roll and announced a quorum.

Commission Members Present:

Jeff Bell, Chair
William Schwind
Devin Rankin
Karla Brady (*via telephone*)
Larry Voyles

Commission Members Absent:

Mary Ellen Bittorf
Ken Travous

Arizona State Parks Staff:

Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Grants
Pat Dutrack, Grants Coordinator
Bob Baldwin, Grants Coordinator
Danielle Silvas, Grants Coordinator
Vivia Strang, Grants Coordinator
Ruth Shulman, Advisory Committee Coordinator

Guests: None

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Members and staff introduced themselves.

C. ELECTION OF AORCC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Bell opened the discussion by asking for nominations. Following brief discussion, Ms. Brady nominated Mr. Schwind for Vice-Chair. Ms. Rankin asked about the responsibilities of the Vice-Chair; Chair Bell responded that the primary responsibility was to stand-in for the Chair in the event of the Chair's absence. Mr. Schwind asked Mr. Voyles if he would be interested the role of Vice-Chair. Mr. Voyles replied that he would be happy to serve if elected, however as Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, he may not be able to attend as many AORCC

meeting as he would like. Mr. Schwind suggested co-Vice-Chairs. Ms. Rankin moved that AORCC consider a dual Vice-Chair position and that Mr. Schwind and Mr. Voyles serve as co-Vice-Chairs. Ms. Brady seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes from the August 14, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Schwind moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Voyles seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

2. Consider Extension of the Project End Date for the City of Flagstaff Trails Heritage Fund Project #680207, FUTS: Rio de Flag North Acq/Dev

Mr. Baldwin discussed the request from the City of Flagstaff, noting the project began on September 19, 2002 and has already been granted three extensions of the project end date. The current project end date is October 21, 2008. Mr. Baldwin said that the City has a contract for significantly more than their match amount to finish, and anticipates completing the project by the end of this year. Mr. Schwind asked for a brief recap on what caused the delays. Mr. Baldwin noted that the application was premature, in that land acquisitions and rights-of-way easements did not occur smoothly. Further discussion on the completion date and the work remaining on the project followed. Mr. Schwind moved to recommend extending the project end date to October 21, 2009 for the City of Flagstaff Trails Heritage Fund Project #680207, FUTS: Rio de Flag North Acquisition and Development, and that this recommendation be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board for further action. Ms. Rankin seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

3. Appointment of Representative to Present a Report on Behalf of AORCC to the ASP Board on November 21, 2008

Ms. Pulsifer noted that the ASP Board discussed at its last meeting the benefits of conducting a dialogue with the various advisory committees. They are primarily interested in issues and accomplishments during this year, and any issues that can be foreseen for the coming year. The Board is asking each advisory committee to appoint a representative to make an open-form presentation of ten minutes, followed by a ten-minute question and answer period.

Chair Bell nominated himself to serve as the AORCC representative, as he is also the senior member at this point. The Commission was unanimous in support.

Chair Bell then asked for some clarification on the history of AORCC and their mission and relation to the ASP Board. Ms. Pulsifer noted that in the beginning, AORCC was its own department of the state. At one point, AORCC was folded into Arizona State Parks as an advisory committee to the ASP Board. Chair Bell then noted that he was under the impression that AORCC was originally formed to deal with the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program. He wondered if the statute regarding that had changed. Ms. Dutrack, who has been

with ASP for approximately 20 years, did not believe that was the case. Ms. Strang noted that Ms. Pulsifer has some historical documents that may provide a clear picture of the past.

Mr. Schwind asked if Chair Bell thought the presentation should be made in PowerPoint. Chair Bell thought it would be most effective for him to do a talk with written notes. Mr. Schwind then asked what ASP Staff would like to see presented. Ms. Pulsifer noted that Staff, like the Board itself, would like to see a presentation on issues and accomplishments.

Chair Bell noted that he feels AORCC is definitely a “filter” for the ASP Board. He noted that because of the presence of the Director of Arizona State Parks sometimes creates “awkward situations” for Staff in making their recommendations. He wondered if the composition of the Commission should have changed when AORCC was folded into ASP. Ms. Dutrack noted that under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) adopted regarding the ASP grant programs and ASP’s ability to apply for grants, the MOU outlined that ASP would receive a 30% share of the grant funds “off the top” with the understanding that ASP would not apply for grants. Following brief discussion of the MOU, Ms. Pulsifer noted that she would provide a copy of the document to AORCC members. She will also meet with Chair Bell prior to the November Board meeting to discuss the history of AORCC and how that history affects the current issues before the Commission.

Mr. Schwind noted that doing as much homework as possible prior to the presentation would be necessary. At a minimum, the statutes regarding AORCC should be clearly understood. With that in mind, AORCC should understand that there can be no change overnight. Ms. Pulsifer asked if AORCC should hold a special meeting to prepare for the presentation; this was deemed not necessary.

Chair Bell asked if the ASP Board was considering holding these presentations on an annual basis. Ms. Pulsifer said that her understanding is that the Board would like to hear from the advisory committees annually.

Mr. Schwind asked if there were some particular circumstance that triggered this request from the Board. Ms. Pulsifer said that she did not think so, but that there are new members on the Board who would like to get to know the advisory committees. They would like to get a clearer idea of who is providing the advice the Board relies on.

Mr. Voyles asked if this would truly be a presentation or more of a commingled meeting. Ms. Pulsifer clarified that this would be a presentation by each of the advisory committees, with a question-and-answer period between the Board and the committees. Mr. Schwind asked how many advisory committees there are; Ms. Shulman outlined the six committees she works with, and noted that there are advisory committees attached to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Ms. Rankin asked if anyone can attend the meeting. Ms. Pulsifer said that, because the ASP Board meetings are public meetings, anyone can attend if they choose. Mr. Schwind asked if the Board would be more interested in hearing about the history or current issues. Ms. Pulsifer said that current issues would be of interest, and that she will work with Chair Bell on the history.

Chair Bell then noted that a past member (Mr. Garry Hayes) had been particularly concerned with the extensions of project end dates the Commission deals with. Mr. Baldwin noted that bringing extension requests to the Commission is part of the administration of the grant programs; enforcing the rules can sometimes be tough. Mr. Schwind noted that the fact grant programs fund projects all around the state is an accomplishment worth mentioning.

Mr. Voyles asked what Staff would like to have mentioned at the Board meeting. Ms. Pulsifer noted that while the MOU referred to earlier allows for ASP to receive 30% off the top of grant funds, ASP has also “taken” more funds on occasion. Chair Bell asked for an example. Ms. Pulsifer noted that the recent purchase of the Picket Post House near the Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park is one example. Mr. Schwind asked if there was a sunset clause on the Heritage Fund. Ms. Strang said that there is no sunset clause, and the Heritage Fund was a voter initiative. Further discussion on the Heritage Fund followed.

Mr. Baldwin noted that the State Trails Plan for Arizona is being drafted this year. The Plan also drives the criteria for Trails Heritage Fund grant program. Other plans, such as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) drive the criteria for other grant programs. SCORP drives the Local, Regional and State Park (LRSP) grant program; the State Watercraft Survey drives the criteria for the State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) grant program. AORCC has a role in crafting the new grant rating criteria when a new plan has been adopted.

Chair Bell then asked if there were further discussion. None was forthcoming, and the Commission decided it was necessary to move the representation of AORCC before the Board. Ms. Rankin moved for Chair Bell to represent AORCC at the November 21, 2008 Board meeting and to make a presentation on AORCC’s behalf. Mr. Schwind seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

E. REPORTS

1. Parks Board Actions on AORCC Items

Ms. Pulsifer noted that at their most recent meeting, the Board considered two items referred from AORCC. One item was to approve the grant recommendations for the LRSP program (including the Juhan Park project), and the Trails Heritage fund program.

The second item was to deny the request from La Paz County to carry over funds from the latest Law Enforcement Boating Safety Fund disbursement.

2. Heritage Fund Status Report

Ms. Pulsifer referred AORCC to the Heritage Fund Status chart. She noted that the disbursement was finally made in August of 2008. At the moment, the Heritage Fund is slightly down from last year (12% to 14%). However, the Heritage Fund is generally fully funded by March or April. She feels that the Fund will be fully funded by then. She asked AORCC to keep in mind that distributions fluctuate.

F. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

G. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

H. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

December 11, 2008 – Phoenix, Arizona State Parks Boardroom

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bell adjourned the meeting at 1:40pm.